

for compliance with the provisions of law and its rules, orders, and regulations. **Tariffs** The Commission monitors and prescribes requirements to ensure accessibility and accuracy of electronic tariff publications of common carriers engaged in the foreign commerce of the United States. Special permission applications may be submitted for relief from statutory and/or Commission tariff requirements.

Service Contracts The Commission receives and reviews filings of confidential service contracts between shippers and ocean common carriers. The Commission also monitors publication of certain essential terms of those service contracts.

Non-Vessel-Operating Common Carrier Service Arrangements (NSAs) The Commission receives and reviews service arrangements entered into by non-vessel-operating common carriers and their customers. Cargo moving under NSAs is exempt from the tariff publication and adherence requirements of the Shipping Act, on the condition that the service arrangements must be filed with the Commission.

Licenses The Commission issues licenses as ocean transportation intermediaries to those persons and entities in the U.S. who wish to carry out the business of providing freight forwarding services and non-vessel-operating common carrier services.

Passenger Indemnity The Commission

provisions of the act of November 6, 1966, which require shipowners and operators to obtain certificates of financial responsibility to pay judgments for personal injury or death or to refund fares in the event of nonperformance of voyages.

**Informal Complaints** The Commission reviews alleged or suspected violations of the shipping statutes and rules and regulations of the Commission and may take administrative action to institute formal proceedings, to refer matters to other governmental agencies, or to bring about voluntary agreement between the parties.

Formal Adjudicatory Procedures The Commission conducts formal investigations and hearings on its own motion and adjudicates formal complaints in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. note prec. 551).

Alternative Dispute Resolution The Commission provides mediation and other dispute resolution services in order to assist parties in achieving a more acceptable resolution to a dispute at less cost than may be possible in litigation. These services are available before and after the commencement of litigation.

**Rulemaking** The Commission promulgates rules and regulations to interpret, enforce, and ensure compliance with shipping and related statutes by common carriers and other persons subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

**Investigation and Economic Analyses** The Commission prescribes and administers programs to ensure compliance with the provisions of the shipping statutes. These programs include: education and outreach activities; the collection of information relating to field investigation of activities and practices of ocean common carriers, terminal operators, agreements among ocean common carriers and/or marine terminal operators, ocean transportation intermediaries, passenger vessel operators, and other persons subject to the shipping statutes; and rate analyses, studies, and economic reviews of current and prospective trade conditions, including the extent and nature of competition in various trade areas.

International Affairs The Commission conducts investigations of foreign governmental and carrier practices that adversely affect the U.S. shipping trade. In consultation with other executive agencies, the Commission takes action to effect the elimination of discriminatory practices on the part of foreign governments against shipping in the United States foreign trade, and to achieve comity between the United States and its trading partners.

## Area Representatives—Federal Maritime Commission

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## **Sources of Information**

**Electronic Access** Information about the Federal Maritime Commission is available in electronic form through the Internet, at www.fmc.gov.

**Employment** Employment inquiries may be directed to the Office of Human Resources, Federal Maritime Commission, 800 North Capitol Street

NW., Washington, DC 20573–0001. Phone, 202–523–5773.

Informal Complaints Phone, 202–523–5807. E-mail, complaints@fmc.gov. Publications The Performance and Accountability Report (2005) and the 2005 Management Discussion and Analysis Report are recent publications of the Federal Maritime Commission.

For further information, contact the Office of the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, 800 North Capitol Street NW., Washington, DC 20573-0001. Phone, 202-523-5725. Fax, 202-523-0014. Internet, www.fmc.gov. E-mail, secretary@fmc.gov.

## FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE

2100 K Street NW., Washington, DC 20427 Phone, 202–606–8100. Internet, www.fmcs.gov.

Director

ARTHUR F. ROSENFELD

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service assists labor and management in resolving disputes in collective bargaining contract negotiation through voluntary mediation and arbitration services; provides training to unions and management in cooperative processes to improve long-term relationships under the Labor Management Cooperation Act of 1978; provides alternative dispute resolution services and training to Government agencies, including the facilitation of regulatory negotiations under the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act and the Negotiated Rulemaking Act of 1996; and awards competitive grants to joint labor-management committees to encourage innovative approaches to cooperative efforts.

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) was created by the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947 (29 U.S.C. 172). The Director is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

## Activities

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service helps prevent disruptions in the flow of interstate commerce caused by labor-management disputes by providing mediators to assist disputing parties in the resolution of their differences.